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## PRUSSIAN PRISON STATISTICS

while convictions for serious bodily injury rose from 4,141 to 5,278. Professor Löffler attributes the apparent judicial inefficiency to "the rout of the state's attorney's office by the jury courts," and argues for increased repression of crime through more rigorous sentences.

While we may differ from him as to the motives for eliminating the short jail sentences, there seems to be no question but that the Austrian practice (like that of our own police courts) is a travesty upon the whole principle of imprisonment as a means of correction or punishment. For instance, the sentences for terms of one year and over decreased from 8.91 per cent in 1907 to 8.56 per cent in 1908, and to 7.99 per cent in 1909. Those for from 6 to 12 months decreased from 8.60 per cent in 1907 to 8.21 per cent in 1909. Those from 3 to 6 months also declined slightly. But those from 1 to 3 months increased from 34.79 per cent in 1907 to 35.59 per cent in 1909. And sentences of less than a month rose from 27.86 per cent in 1907 to 29.12 per cent in 1909. All of this might be much better taken as an argument for changing the punitive system in so far as it relies so largely upon jail terms. There may be an alternative to the proposal for increasing the severity of prison sentences. That alternative might well be the indeterminate sentence, or it might be a more liberal use of conditional liberation and probation. Neither of these seems to have occurred to Professor Löffler. (*Die österreichische Kriminalstatistik für 1909*, in *Oesterreichische Zeitschrift für Strafrecht*, 1 and 2 Heft., 1913).

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**Prussian Prison Statistics.**—(*Statistik über die Gefangnisse der Justizverwaltung in Preussen für das Rechnungsjahre, 1912*. Berlin, 1913.)

The administration of prisoners in Prussia is divided between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior. The daily average of prisoners in 1912 was 52,795 persons, or 131.44 to 100,000 of the population. A list of all officers is given. An agency said to be approved by experience is the Commission of Supervision; composed of a chairman selected by the Minister of Justice, one or two judicial officials, a state's attorney, a prison warden, a chaplain, a physician, and, in some cases, a member of the prisoners' aid society. Short courses of study are held for instructing officers in their duties. The total number of male prisoners in 1890-1 was 328,835, of women, 100,537; in 1912, 339,125 males and 62,322 females. The average number of juvenile convicts in 1899 was 1,562.42; in 1912, 392.95; the decrease being due to increased use of suspension of punishment—3,379 youths in 1899, 13,823 in 1912. Cellular incarceration by day and night was applied to 11,813 persons in 1895-6, and to 21,208 in 1912; the tendency is to keep prisoners from contact with each other, at least for a part of the term. The "provisional release" is more used by the authorities than formerly; in 1912 there were 385 applications, of which 53.51 per cent were approved; in 1912, 562 applications, of which 76 per cent were approved. The aid societies receive subsidies from the state.

The text of the administrative regulations laid down by the Federal Council in 1897 is reproduced in this report. Professor Freudenthal regards them as important.

C. R. H.